AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter December 31, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

VOL. 8. NO. 49. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1919. WHOLE NO. 413.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

STATE COMPENSATION MOST SATISFACTORY

Jefferson City, Mo., March 1.—State compensation for injured workers is both practicable and economical, is the verdict of state officials operating under this system.

Missouri trade unionists are urging the legislature to pass a compensation law that will exclude private liability companies.

Compensation laws generally provide that employers may insure in a state fund or by other methods approved by state officials. As the Missouri private insurance companies are opposing any form of state insurance, Governor Gardner, of Missouri, and C. Chancellor, a member of the state court judiciary, wrote to managers of state funds for authoritative information on this subject. A synopsis of the replies follow:

Maryland—The state fund has been successful." Writer predicts that the state fund "will eventually write all compensation insurance in the state because of its cheapness.

Montana—State fund has been "unqualifiedly successful. No sentiment to abolish the plan, but considerable sentiment to enlarge the fund extensive.

Nevada—No criticism against state fund here. Believe "that any effort to abolish it would meet with every resistance."

New York—State fund's success "has been most remarkable, and private interests "have not been so bold as to come forward openly and solicit action for the abolition of the state fund."

Ohio—Our state fund has been very successful. Both the Ohio Manufacturers' Association and the Ohio Federation of Labor are most ardent supporters of the state insurance fund." No criticisms of law except from private companies. "I am personally strong for an exclusive state compensation law."

Wyoming—"We have an exclusive state fund and it is popular and we believe the best system."

Similar reports were received from Nova Scotia and Ontario.

CHASING H. C. OF L.

Boston, March 1.—The national industrial conference board is chasing the old H. C. of L. This board represents a score of employers' associations and favors prices, if employers can keep work harder and produce more goods.

"This," says the board, "seems to be the only means of escaping the vicious circle by which an increase in the cost of living is made a reason for demanding higher wages which, in turn, are imported into the higher prices of goods, resulting in another rise in the cost of commodities consumed by the workers."

This statement, to the superficial reader, simply conveys the impression that the workers are responsible for present living costs. A careful reading of the statement, however, shows that the employers acknowledge the workers are not responsible and that when workers attempt to meet increases by wage increases the employers seized the opportunity to give H. C. of L. another boost.

Accordingly, the statement of a man defended himself against the attack of a highwayman by saying he would be guilty of assault and battery.

PIECE WORK LOSING OUT.

Washington, March 1.—Piece work is disappearing on many important railroads in this country, following the announcement of Director General of Roads McAdoo that piece work is retired from office, that if it were shown that the employes oppose this system that it would be abolished.

The A. F. of L. railway employes' department announces that the following railroads are the latest to join the no-piece-work column:

Chicago & Alton, Northern Pacific, Western Pacific, Western Maryland, Long Island, Cumberland Valley, Denver & Rio Grande, Chesapeake & Ohio, and Indiana Harbor Belt. Pere Marquette employes have signified their against piece work and they have notified the management to that effect.

HARBOR STRIKE AWARD.

Washington, March 1.—V. Everitt Macy, umpire in the dispute between New York harbor marine workers and vessel owners and various governmental departments, recommends an eight-hour day and a six-day week except for boats with single crews. His decision, announced today, because "it must be remembered if the employes receive the same wages for eight hours as they did for 12 hours, that while they receive no increased income the labor cost to the industry is increased 50 per cent."

The award is the result of a strike that tied up shipping in New York harbor for several days.

ENDS PRISON BIRTHS.

Albany, N. Y., March 1.—Governor Smith has signed a bill which provides that a woman about to become a mother in a penal institution shall be removed and provided with care outside the prison.

"The bill is humanitarian purpose of this bill," the governor said, "it is to remove from the child the stigma of birth in a penal institution."

REDUCE WAGES.

Washington, March 1.—The department of labor has assigned a conciliator to the case of the Wheeler-Schebler company versus its machinists. This Indianapolis concern is charged with attempting to reduce wages 10 cents an hour.

DEFENDS PEONAGE.

Salt Lake City, Utah, March 1.—Some employing interests and their defenders in this state are expected to go on amendment to the peonage bill now before the Utah legislature.

ALIEN LANDLORDISM VIOLATES BASIC LAW

San Juan, Porto Rico, March 1.—A defiance of Porto Rico's basic law, adopted by the United States congress, is responsible for the alien landlordism that has plunged this island in misery, declares Santiago Iglesias, member of the Porto Rico senate and A. F. of L. organizer.

In 1900 congress inserted this provision in Porto Rico's first organic act:

"No corporation shall be authorized to engage in agriculture or in buying and selling real estate or be permitted to hold or own real estate except such as may be reasonably necessary to enable it to carry out the purposes for which it was created, and every corporation hereafter authorized to engage in agriculture shall by its charter be restricted to the ownership and control or of not exceeding 500 acres of land."

This law now charged that the military bureau of insular affairs at Washington, under General McIntyre, has permitted a flagrant violation of this provision in the case of 477 individuals and partnerships from the United States, Spain, France and other countries, own 766,396 acres of land. The value of this land and other property was considered in the estimate for the support two-thirds of the taxable property on the island. The 477 these 477 parties pay is about one-half of the value of their property.

"Regarding the difference between the varieties of landlordism, says Iglesias, "whether alien or domestic, it may be said that under the Spanish system the money paid in rent, or in other ways, goes to the old island, and at the time absentees control the domestic monetary circulation, the prices of all property and the wealth created by labor."

PACKING EMPLOYES GAIN.

Chicago, March 1.—Acting as arbitrator in the wage demand of workers employed by the five packing plants, Federal Judge Alschuler has ordered wages advanced 10 per cent "out of consideration of increased living cost since the award herein of last March." The award dates back to November 10 last, and will apply to every worker employed elsewhere by these packers.

Where operations call for a seven-day week, Judge Alschuler declares that 48 hours constitute a week's work and shall be made by relief gangs, so that "employes in such operations shall be relieved from duty on some day of the week."

Beginning March 2, 1919, the overtime rate shall be time and one-half for employes in all daily overtime after eight hours.

These gains are the result of the arbitration proceedings before Judge Alschuler, who had previously acted in that capacity. Five years ago they have been unorganized, but joined the various unions of their crafts and secured their present gains as the result of an organizing campaign. A charter has been issued by the packers of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen.

LOW PAY HURTS SCHOOLS.

Washington, March 1.—Doubling the salaries of public school teachers within the next five years, and the cost of living will be less another 10 years is passed, so that the minimum salary would be November 10 bill and $1,500, is the program urged by United States Commissioner of Education Claxton, in a statement just issued.

"Teachers are now paid less for their work than any other class of workers," said the commissioner, "and the increase in their pay in the last few years has in nowise been in keeping with the increase in pay of other workers, or with the increase in the cost of living. While the cost of living has increased approximately 60 per cent, the salaries of teachers have increased only about 12 per cent.

"Many of the better teachers are leaving the schools and their places are being filled by men and women of less native ability, less education and culture and less training and experience."

REGULATE CHILD LABOR.

Greeley, Col., March 1.—County officials have notified beet growers that they will not permit them to depend upon the labor of children except where arrangements have been made for summer schools or extra sessions of schools to accommodate them. They intend to assist in the harvest next fall. The county official said:

"We are writing this letter at this time so that there can be no misunderstanding concerning the school or school boards of the attitude of the people on the subject of child labor and so that all school officials will be prepared to co-operate with us in the enforcement of this necessary law."

NET PROFITS INCREASE.

Madison, Wis., March 1.—Declaring profits is indicated by the income tax paid to this state by 21 companies for five years, ending 1918. These concerns represent the meat, coal, shoe, paper, steel and power industries. In 1911 their total net profits was reported at $1,720,000, and in 1916 the profits were $25,386,000.

No publicity is given the years 1917 and 1918, which were the "plutocrat" in the history of the country.

THEY MARVEL AT UNREST.

Jefferson City, Mo., March 1.—In a letter to the executive committee of the Missouri legislature, on the workings of the West Virginia workmen's compensation law, State Compensation Commissioner Ott said:

"There are a number of employes in the state whose earnings are not $1 a week."

REFUSE TO ACCEPT CUT.

York, Pa., March 1.—The Lafeen paper mill has shut down because employes refused to accept wage reductions that range from 10 to 50 cents a day. It is claimed that the mill is crowded with orders.

EVERYBODY UNITING.

Fort Worth, Texas, March 1.—Federal investigation into the Waco disclosing trade unionism, as are stenographers, mattress makers, messengers, unskilled workers and other employes.

JEWELRY WORKERS GAIN.

Montreal, Canada, March 1.—Jewelry workers have won their strike for an eight-hour week with no wage reductions.

GOVERNMENT MACHINE NO LONGER POLITICAL

Boston, March 1.—The Boston Globe declares that the machinery of government has shifted from a political to an industrial base.

"Directly it had declared war against Germany," says this paper, "congress became a unit, ready to vote to the czech. There was no feeling against it. There was only a general agreement that if war-making power were left to that body, the war would be made some time in 1922. The leisurely political discussion of peace as to just what would be done to it knew it, and our administration machinery became, therefore, a group of quickly improvised executive boards—food, fuel, shipping, railroads, war industries, and so on. Instead of being politicians the men who have steered the fortunes of the country have been a combination half oda as it was new; a group of businessmen experienced in administrative detail, and, behind them, a group of the ablest executive engineers with minds schooled in scientific exactitude, who had hitherto been known in the country chiefly as 'professors.' In England it was the same.

"This abrupt shift of government from political to industrial machinery is no accident. When these political forms of government were created by the fathers they protected the rights of the national life. The alteration of our political machinery lasted between the time of the steam engine and the dynamo, a period of twenty years, which was, for the most part, constructed in the eighteenth century.

"The political necessity of which we were compelled us to abandon much of it. Such was the application of mechanical machine in its place. It is not a question of whether we approve of what happened; It is what did happen."

"This shift of public thinking from the political to the economic is not confined to this country. It has been copied by the workers. The features of the great strikes in England have been their more or less blandly ignored parliament—abandoning political action for "direct," or economic action. Similar tendencies are appearing here.

"Modern society is no longer primarily political. It is industrial and commercial. It must be handled as such. Problems which governments once treated as political have to be recognized as plain bread-and-butter business propositions."

MORE KEM MEN PROTEST

Boston, March 1.—Organized commercial telegraphers in this city have protested against the labor policies of Postmaster General Burleson and ask for a thorough public investigation "of the wage schedule, discrimination and reinstatement question and an inquiry into the general conduct of the telegraph companies under control of the post office department."

They key men declare that the alleged wage increase was made necessary by the postmaster general proving to congress that the telegraphers need 25 per cent more than the $1,500 which is the maximum salary for clerks in the postoffice department.

ILLNESS IS COSTLY.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 1.—Illness among workers causes a wage loss in Pennsylvania of more than $125,000,000 every year, while existing facilities for medical care among wage earners are conspicuously absent, according to the unanimous report of the joint legislative committee on health, just submitted to the legislature.

One-fourth of those actually disabled by illness never receive medical care, while the wage income of those ill but still trying to work, are without attention, the committee declares, urging legislative consideration of the problem of providing medical care for wage earners, which is referred to as "the next step in social insurance" dealing with "the loss of time and pay" of social and industrial problems of our times."

WOULD HOLD TEACHERS.

Columbus, Ohio, March 1.—The increasing number of Ohio school teachers who are resigning because of low wages is alarming some state law makers who now propose to make it impossible for the teacher to resign without giving two months' notice, or if teacher quits without the two months' notice boards of education are enjoined to report such "unauthorized" resignations to the board of examiners, who in turn must send out the monthly blacklist to county superintendents.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Beaumont, Texas, March 1.—The annual convention of the state federation of labor will convene in this city on Monday, May 5.

Brunswick, Ga., March 1.—The twenty-first annual convention of the Georgia state federation of labor will be held in this city, starting April 15.

"BIG SIX" CELEBRATES.

New York, March 1.—Typographical Union No. 6 held its annual celebration, attended by nearly 3,000 persons, in commemoration of the making of New York a 100 per cent newspaper city. Addresses were made by former presidents, including Hugh Frayne, who holds card No. 1 in this union, which has a membership of 8,000.

WANT NON-UNION SHOP.

Atlanta, Ga., March 1.—The Building Trades Employers' association has decided to fight the open shop, which the contractors attempt to camouflage by the term "open shop."

VICTIMIZATION CHARGED.

Roanoke, Va., March 1.—About 30 cook and waiters in the city are on strike because of trade union victimization.

PLUMBERS ADVANCE.

Augusta, Ga., March 1.—Plumbers' union No. 350 has secured an agreement with leading employers, increasing wages.

DESTROY ILLITERACY THAT MEN MAY LIVE

Washington, March 1.—Destroy illiteracy that many may live, writes P. P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education, in a stirring appeal that this drag on Americanism may be removed through legislative action.

"Beyond the distance over which the human voice carries," says the federal educator, "the man who cannot read is dead to human speech, nor can he hear when the speaker ceases to speak. Except as he by chance may be read to by another he might as well have lived before the alphabets were invented. For him there is no record even of his own life. For him no 'touch of nature makes the whole world kin.' For him no voice, the years, or the days. For him there is no literature, no history, or story, of art or science, of information or inspiration. For him the books are dumb as the tombs of mute. The daily papers with their burden of the news of the world are silent as the blank sheets on which the news is printed. For him letters from distant relatives are written in vain. No meaning unless by chance they are interpreted to him by one who knows the art he has never learned. Space and time alike wall him hopelessly in.

"The man who can not read sees but by the limit of his vision, and at most to such distant parts of the world as may be explained or described by those who speak word by some returning traveler. Except according to his personal vision or personal tradition the past is as black as the night into which it was submerged. For him there are for him no broad illumined fields through which the long millions of his ancestors, and no sunlit heights across which, in the great events of the age-old struggle for freedom and for power over the forces of nature, the race has won its way. For him, darkness lies on all the horizon of his senses and bars the doors of his imagination."

DON'T GO TO SCHOOL.

Washington, March 1.—The children's bureau of the department of labor says the children of America are not getting the education that is supposed to be their birthright by all.

In the central northwestern states, it is stated, three out of every four children between the ages of 6 and 16 go to school. This is the best school attendance record of the United States. The South follows with the poorest record. There, one child in three is not in school.

The proportion of children out of school is smallest among the 11-year olds, 7 per cent, and largest among the 16-year olds, 30 per cent. Between 10 and 14 years of age, 12 per cent, the attendance drops steadily, so that at 14 years of age more than one-fifth of the boys and girls are out of their schools.

The children's bureau is conducting a back-to-school drive throughout the country, and the purpose of this movement says that "communities that make an effort and succeed in getting their children in school will likewise find education will mean more to them and will become more efficient workers and better citizens."

OPPOSE SPEED-UP SYSTEM.

Chicago, March 1.—Trade unionists in this city are urging the city council to record their opposition to speed-up systems, and to ask the national congress of their decision, that suitable legislation may be enacted.

The Pullman company is cited as one of the concerns that use this "slave driving" system. Reports show that with an original capitalization of $36,000,000 the Pullman company has issued stock dividends to the amount of $71,000,000; cash dividends of $130,000,000, as well as setting aside $22,000,000 for wear and tear of the plant.

Regarding these figures the unions say:

"The earnings of this corporation have enabled it to maintain a monopoly to operate a speed-up system for employes where stop watch methods are employed itself as a basis for setting a pace for workers with the resulting mass of nervous and mental disease."

LONG HOURS CAUSE WRECK.

Albany, N. Y., March 1.—The rear-end collision on the New York Central railroad at Castleton on January 19, in which 22 passengers lost their lives, was due, says the up-state public service commission, in a report just made public, to the fact that Engineer Burns had been on a freight train the other, was "for a temporary period in full possession of his senses." He had had no sleep for 17 1-2 hours previous to the wreck.

"It is reasonable to assume," says the report, "that Engineer Burns when nature asserts itself, especially in the present case of a man over 60 years of age,

BILLS TO BETTER LABOR.

St. Paul, Minn., March 1.—Bills for the betterment of labor conditions favorably reported by the house of representatives' labor committee. They are as follows:

Better protection to employes in sending money.

External fire escapes with drop ladder from bottom landing and daily inspection required by state fire marshal from work rooms.

Amendment to permit inspectors of the state department of labor to enter offices in the line of their duties as well as factories and work shops.

AMEND COMPENSATION LAW.

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 1.—The state senate has amended the Oklahoma compensation law. The bill originally introduced fixed 14 to seven days, rates are increased and maximum benefits increased from 15 to 40 days or as much in excess of 60 days in certain cases as the commission may determine to be necessary. More industries are included in the amendment, which now cover 15,000 employes.

PROFITS IN TOBACCO.

New York, March 1.—An increase of nearly $1,000,000 in net earnings is shown in the annual report of Liggett & Meyers Tobacco Co. for 1918. Net profits were $10,668,221.

LOCKOUT IS ENDED.

Dallas, Texas, March 1.—A lockout of building tradesmen inaugurated by the Builders' association has been ended by a decision of conference between the workers and employers.

LOGGERS' "UNION" HAND PICKED AFFAIR

Aberdeen, Wash., March 1.—In a statement to timber workers in this city, Charles Perry Taylor, secretary of the state industrial federation of labor, showed the hand-picked features of the loyal legion of lumbermen and loggers.

This organization was started by General Disque, chief of the spruce production division of the war department and it has been the occasion for angry protests by northwestern trade unionists.

Secretary Taylor arraigned General Disque for his opposition to the bona fide Timber Workers' union and their failure to keep promises made to trade union officials.

It is now clear that the legion's board of directors is all powerful and the only power it has is that to pay dues and to work.

The board of directors fixes dues, initiations and assessments, salaries of officers, rules and regulations, wages and working conditions, and settles all grievances.

The arbitration system provides that the workers shall select one member of the arbitration board who is not connected with the lumber industry, the employers shall select a similar person, and if possible a federal judge shall be the third arbitrator. Under this system decisions can be made by men who know nothing of the industry.

Trade unionists say that many of the spruce producing military staff officers have been appointed general field officers of the new "union" which has the blessing of the employers.

BOSSES ACCEPT UMPIRE.

New York, March 1.—As a result of conferences with the secretary of war and the secretary of labor, the strike of building craftsmen against the New York Building Employers' association has reached a stage where it has been referred to an umpire.

The strike was originally called by the carpenters' demand for higher wages, but the contractors' refusal to accept any form of mediation or arbitration, except what they dictated, made the wage issue secondary, as the other building trades' unions came to the assistance with the lumbers.

The contractors employ about 25 per cent of the carpenters in this city, the remainder being employed by independent contractors, who granted the increase. The trade union leaders refused to permit this handful of contractors to assume leader-ship in the movement and ordered the crafts if now successful.

The strike is on for New Orleans and other cities where these contractors had government contracts and an appeal was made to President Gompers to acquaint all friends of the labor movement in Europe with the facts.

The contractors' acceptance of an umpire indicates the conviction that the heretofore autocratic rule of the New York Building Employers' association is at an end.

WIN 44-HOUR WEEK.

New York, March 1.—Locals of the International Fur Workers' union, representing 8,000 workers, have established the 44-hour week in this city without a strike. Other locals are following.

Abolishment of the slack season wage and the establishment of a minimum wage; wage increases ranging from 10 per cent; average minimum earnings; equal distribution of work; no work to be contracted for outside; business certificate from the conference committee to be obtained by employers; shops and comply with all union conditions.

Fur Worker, official magazine of these workers, asks the following pointed questions:

"What returns will you make to the union for this splendid achievement?

"How will you spend the four hours' leisure that the union has won for you?"

MAYOR MAKES DENIAL.

McKeesport, Pa., March 1.—Mayor Hay is determining another false criticism of workers because of his refusal to permit a trade union charter being issued to the men employed by the Westinghouse company in behalf of employees of the steel trust. The mayor declares that those involved and blames mill employes. He says his action was taken "at the behest of the men who are employed, here." Trade unionists accept this statement as proof that mill employes appealed to him. The organized workers say that those who are employed are capable of any action and that the mayor of a city is less responsible for action when he attempts to shield himself behind the vague name of "people" while initiating his oath of, office.

GAINS IN LOS ANGELES.

Los Angeles, Cal., March 1.—In his annual report to the city council Secretary-Treasurer Myers shows the steady growth and development of the trade union movement in this city. During the past year 22 unions were organized, and 19 established organizations have affiliated with the central body, bringing the membership up to date of 6,885. Numerous trades have secured wage increases and improved conditions, and the Citizen, owned by the general labor movement, is free from debt.

ASKS RESIDENT DEPUTIES.

St. Paul, Minn., March 1.—All deputy sheriffs appointed in Minnesota must be residents of the county and citizens of the United States under the provisions of a bill introduced by Senator Lewis. The bill is intended to prohibit special deputization of men from other states or foreign born employes in case of labor troubles.

MACHINISTS STOP CUT.

Dayton, Ohio, March 1.—Non-union machinists joined organized machinists here in a strike against the Dayton Stamping and Tool company which attempted to reduce wages. A conference with the management resulted in the wage reduction order being rescinded.

HALL TOO SMALL.

Michigan City, Ind., March 1.—The response to a call for a mass meeting of employes in railroad car shops in this city was so general that the hall could not accommodate those present.

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN.

Cincinnati, March 1.—The four locals of ladies' garment workers have signed new agreements which raise rates $2 to $4 a week.

U. S. SALARIES JUMP: WAGES "INCH" ALONG

Washington, March 1.—In pleading for wage increases to government employes, Senator LaFollette presented a list of prominent office holders whose salaries have been advanced since 1905.

The speaker did not object to these increases, but cited them to illustrate the attitude of congress toward government employes.

"Senators will vote themselves an increase of salary of 50 per cent," said the Wisconsin law maker, "and the government employes a percentage of increase that will sustain life, and yet they marvel and complain and threaten because there is dissatisfaction in this country; they discuss investigations to find out why it is that meetings are held and the only results are protesting against the condition of things that exist here today."

The speaker showed that the salary of the president and members of the cabinet has been increased 66 per cent since 1905; private secretary to the president, 50 per cent; secretary to the vice president, 81 per cent; representatives in congress, 50 per cent; secretary of the senate, 50 per cent; sergeant-at-arms of the senate, 50 per cent; speaker of the house, 50 per cent; chief clerk of the house, 42 per cent; chief clerk of the senate, 50 per cent; supreme court, from $13,500 to $15,000 a year; associate justices, from $12,500 to $14,500; judges, from $7,000 to $9,000; district judges, from $6,000 to $7,500.

Senator LaFollette showed that the salaries of senators, cabinet officers, judges are fixed by statute, while the proposed increase of government employes is a bonus. If these employes fail to secure the bonus in future appropriation bills they will drop back to the wage level of 1838.

"The wages of the employes of the government," he said, "have not been materially changed since 1838, but the salaries of representatives, of senators, of judges, of cabinet officers, of heads of bureaus, of ambassadors have been raised enormously."

REJECTS LOW WAGE LEVEL.

Washington, March 1.—The national war labor board rejects the claim of Madison (Wis.) employes that because wages here in Chicago are lower, or higher, than are paid by the state of Wisconsin and the city of Madison, that the wage level established which it would be unwise to disturb.

"This argument has little force," says the board. "Carried to its logical conclusion, workers in one locality would be required to accept low wages, provided the employers in that community received low wages. It would always mean a reduction to the lowest point to obtain the name of fair wages, and no comparisons that would be made are sufficient to overturn or outweigh that principle."

PASS INDUSTRIAL BILLS.

Bismarck, N. D., March 1.—Governor Frazier has signed the special election on Non-partisan league bills will be called if they are demanded by petition of about 15,000 electors.

The legislation to be passed upon provides for the creation of an industrial commission to handle a state system of public-owned industries.

The banking bill permits the establishment of a system of banking owned and controlled by the state and with a capital of $2,000,000.

The projected $5,600,000 terminal elevator and flour mill scheme, the $3,000,000 home building and financing farm mortgages, establishment of rural credits in connection with the state bank, and a state home building scheme, are the principal measures embraced in the pledge.

SWEDISH SOLDIERS' FOLKS.

Washington, March 1.—Government officials are planning a vigorous campaign against swindlers who are seeking to get the state militia called away through false telegrams and letters. The usual practice is for the swindler to obtain the names of relatives of a soldier from the published casualty lists. A telegram signed in the soldier's name is sent, saying he is free to come home on furlough if he sends money to cover the cost of the trip. In filing the message the sender requests the relatives of the soldier relatives to do the same.

Officials urge that in no case should relatives wire money on identification in transmitting funds to soldiers.

INDORSE TWO PLATOON.

Baltimore, March 1.—The local federation of labor has indorsed the two-platoon request of organized municipal firemen here.

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 1.—The governor has signed the fire fighters' two-platoon measure, which was introduced by Representative Wilson, the legislature with little opposition.

60 MINERS LOST LIVES.

Scranton, Pa., March 1.—In the production of 19,675,000 tons of coal in three inspection districts of Lackawanna county, Pa., during the past three fives, 123 were injured, 15 wives were widowed and 146 children orphaned.

WANT EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Cleveland, March 1.—Employes of the Cleveland Chain company are on strike to enforce an eight-hour day. A department of labor conciliator is attempting to adjust the dispute.

TO UNIONIZE PROFESSIONS.

New York, March 1.—About 200 civil engineers employed by the state engineers attended a meeting in this city to discuss the question of unionizing their profession.

STRIKE FOR EIGHT HOURS.

Dayton, Ohio, March 1.—Metal polishers employed by the Dayton Malleable Iron company have struck for an eight-hour demand.

BEING MACHINE GOES BREED REBEL SPIRIT

New York, March 1.—Being a cog in the industrial machine is the fundamental cause for industrial unrest, declared C. Y. Cutless, a Canadian economist, before the American Institute of mining and metallurgical engineers.

"There are probably very few men who would not be willing," he said, "to earn less, to work harder and for longer hours and under worse conditions, or to get on with fewer holidays, if it were done for themselves directly. Overworking is which they really felt a deep personal interest. But, in modern industry they do not feel personally interested. They have no sense of ownership. They never begin and finish anything. They have little or no interest in the end product. They do not have the opportunity to think for themselves. They are generally required to perform certain definite work, or even mere mechanical movements without consultation, or in a sense that does not call for reasonable exercise or recognition of their intelligence.

"There is very little or no voice in governing themselves. They are parts of an organization, cogs in an economic machine which they do not feel interested naturally, would accept the same procedure with the result that the anarchy now existing in the industrial market would be replaced by the theory of democracy before the civic center of this city.

Among the demands summarized by the speaker were:

Recognition of the principle that men and women do not work for wages—they want to live.

Recognition of the fact that we must include a more complete standard than the merely scientific basis of life and health, that middle life will find the worker displaced for a younger man, that the young years of life will be heavy with want of income or the chance of employment.

The removal of the three great causes of poverty so far as is humanly possible, namely unemployment and industrial injury.

An acceptance of the principle of collective bargaining as necessary to the maintenance of proper living standards, and the fact that industrial disputes must have the support of wealth as their basis.

PULLS" GAN'T RIGHT FUNDAMENTAL WRONG

Washington, March 1.—The enforcement of guaranteed rights must not depend on influence or "pulls," says A. J. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison in a letter to Governor Sproul of Pennsylvania.

The trade unionist had protested to the governor against the refusal of Mayor Kyle of McKeesport, Pa., to permit a public meeting of trade unionists. In replying to this protest, Governor Sproul said:

"I shall be glad to urge upon influential Republicans that they confer with him and try and convince him that his opposition in this matter is entirely unwise, to say the least."

This attitude of the governor was disagreed to by Secretary Morrison, who replied:

"I express the confidence that you will accept organized labor's insistence that the method you propose is not sufficient action against this denial of a fundamental right guaranteed the citizens of Pennsylvania, as well as all other commonwealths.

"If the enforcement of a guaranteed right, or, in fact, of any law, is to depend upon influence, as it is popularly referred to as 'pulls' or other means naturally, would accept the same procedure with the result that the anarchy now existing in the industrial market would be replaced by the theory of democracy before the civic center of this city.

Among the demands summarized by the speaker were:

Recognition of the principle that men and women do not work for wages—they want to live.

Recognition of the fact that we must include a more complete standard than the merely scientific basis of life and health, that middle life will find the worker displaced for a younger man, that the young years of life will be heavy with want of income or the chance of employment.

The removal of the three great causes of poverty so far as is humanly possible, namely unemployment and industrial injury.

An acceptance of the principle of collective bargaining as necessary to the maintenance of proper living standards, and the fact that industrial disputes must have the support of wealth as their basis.

FAVOR U. S. CONTROL.

Washington, March 1.—"Our membership is practically unanimous in favor of government ownership of the railroads," reports officers of the A. F. of L. railway employes' department.

The question submitted to a referendum vote by this department was, "Do you favor government ownership or control, as against private ownership?"

The various internationals are reported as having become part of the department.

Machinists—For private control, 426; against private control, 126; against government ownership, 82; against, 27. Boiler Makers—For, 119; against, 2,579. Blacksmiths—For, 805; against, 1,000,972. Sheet Metal Workers—For, 2; against, 5. Car Workers—For private control, 1,000; against, 1,000,972. Sheet Metal Workers—For, 2; against, 5. Car Workers—For private control, 1,000; against, 1,000,972. Sheet Metal Workers—For, 2; against, 5. Car Workers—For private control, that their locals voted as unite on the question and that private control was defeated by a vote of majority. The railway clerks and switchmen have taken no vote.

WON'T DISCUSS 8 HOURS.

Washington, March 1.—The national war labor board refuses to enter into further discussion of the question of eight-hour day is practicable. In its record of the hearings between railway employers and workers, the board said:

"The time has now come as a settled national policy that eight hours constitute a day's work for all labor. It is not necessary to repeat arguments that sustain this principle, it is sufficient to refer all to the recent house case, decided by Judge Anchor-age, and the general principle involved in award in re Modern versus Wheeling Metal & Manufacturing company, Wheeling, W. Va., and the decisions of the railroad wage commission."

OWEN MILLER IS DEAD.

St. Louis, Mo., March 1.—Owen Miller, secretary of the American Federation of Musicians for years, died in this city. A number of trade unionists attended the funeral services. David Keppler, organizer of the A. F. of L., represented the A. F. of L. in the absence of President Gompers.

Deceased was a prominent figure in the labor movement. He was also active during 1917 in lone service as a member of organizations formed to assist in the war.

GAINS IN NEW PO:

Newport, R. I., Ma... Bricklayers, masons and plasterers' union has won from 10 to 50 cents an hour; painters have advanced rates 10 to 25 cents; carpenters have secured increases to $5 a day. The agreement that the unions have signed with the contractors' and managers' association expires May 1.

Unified orders on hand the first of the month indicate that the volume of business for the year will be 50 per cent more than the first quarter of 1918.

PROFITS BREAK RECORD.

New York, March 1.—President Carnegie of the Kelly-Springfield Tire company reports that earnings last year were $3,000,000, or the company's history. After all charges except taxes were paid, the company announces a clear profit of $2,987,000.